

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1594

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2015

Atomic Minerals

S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the last study conducted on the potential of atomic minerals in the country;
- (b) the approximate reserves of atomic minerals in the country according to the last assessment made in this regard; and
- (c) the details of the plan formulated by the Government for their exploration?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS AND PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (Dr. JITENDRA SINGH) :

(a) Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD), a constituent unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), is engaged in survey and exploration activities to identify and evaluate reserves of atomic minerals in the country. The studies carried out by AMD include Heliborne Geophysical Surveys, Multidisciplinary Integrated Geological-Geophysical-Geochemical Surveys and Subsurface Exploration by drilling. The exploration activities are continuous processes carried out in various geological domains across the country.

(b) As of June, 2015, AMD has established 2,25,936t in-situ U₃O₈ (1,91,594t Uranium) reserves in the country in varied geological domains. The reserves of Titanium bearing minerals (ilmenite, leucoxene, rutile), Monazite (Thorium bearing mineral) and Zircon established in the beach and inland placer deposits along the coastal tracts of India are given below.

(Reserve in million tonnes)

Ilmenite+ Rutile Zircon Monazite Garnet Sillimanite Total Heavy
Leucoxene Minerals

593.50 31.35 33.71 11.93 168.33 225.97 1,064.79

(c) AMD continues its concerted efforts to locate additional resources of uranium along the length and breadth of the country by utilising state-of-the-art technologies as mentioned in (a) above.

Details of the Plan formulated by AMD for exploration of atomic minerals during XII Plan period are as under:

URANIUM INVESTIGATIONS:

1. Heliborne Survey (L. km) 3,75,000
2. Reconnaissance Survey (sq km) 25,000
3. Geochemical Survey (sq km) 10,000
4. Detailed Survey (sq km) 1,000
5. Ground Geophysical Survey (sq km) 2,500
6. Drilling
 1. Departmental (m) 3,25,000
 2. Contract (m) 4,90,000
7. Augmentation of Uranium Reserves t U₃O₈) 75,000

RARE METAL AND RARE EARTH INVESTIGATIONS:

1. Reconnaissance Survey (sq km) 2,000
2. Detailed Survey (sq km) 20

BEACH SAND AND OFF-SHORE INVESTIGATIONS:

1. Reconnaissance Survey (sq km) 500
2. Detailed Survey (sq km) 40
